FBIS-MEA-80-053
Monday
17 March 1980
Vol V No 053 Supp 065

Supplement

Daily Report

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN IRAN

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Students Training in GDR

DW141155 Bonn DIE WELT in German 13 Mar 80 p 1 DW

[Werner Kahl article: "Tehran Hostage-Takers Trained in the "GDR"]

[Text] Bonn/Tehran--Under the supervision of the "GDR" intelligence service and the Soviet KGB, members of the militant cadre groups of the kidnapers in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran were trained in Leipzig, East Berlin and Prague. According to information given DIE WELT by Western diplomats, investigations during the 130 days that have passed since the taking of the hostages have revealed that the occupiers include several Iranians trained at "GDR" institutes of higher learning who had been recruited for a "mobile mission occupation commando" in Europe. The commando, among other things, had forcibly taken possession temporarily of the Iranian Consulate General in Geneva in 1976 and the Embassy of Iran in the Netherlands in 1978. For the first time Iran's President Bani-Sadr indirectly held the Soviet Union responsible for the failure of the UN efforts toward the release of the 50 U.S. diplomatic detained since 4 November 1979 in the Iranian capital. In an interview with the Paris paper LE MONDE, Bani-Sadr mentioned the communist Tudeh Party directed by Moscow via East Berlin. According to the president, the embassy occupiers "occasionally let themselves be influenced by certain groups which, like the communist Tudeh Party, are close to the Soviet Union."

Bani-Sadr confirmed findings of Western governments so far kept secret according to which nine embassy occupiers have been identified as members of the Tudeh Party.

The Communist Party of Persia was founded in 1941 following the occupation of northern Persia by the Red Army. After an abortive attempt on the life of the shah, the party was outlawed in 1949. Moscow set up exile quarters for the Persian comrades in Leipzig and East Berlin.

In the seventies Tudeh followers at institutes of high learning in the "GDR" and in the Federal Republic sought contacts with German communist groups such as the KBW (Communist League of West Germany), the KGB (Communist League), and the KPD.

The security authorities registered contacts with leftist radical and terrorist organizations whose members ("Red Army faction") in part had been trained in the Middle East.

Boris Ponomarev, head of the department for international contacts in the CPSU Central Committee and member of the Politburo of his party, after the overthrow of the shah instructed the exile Tudeh about the tasks waiting for its functionaries in their homeland. During a conference in East Berlin the 75-year-old foreign affairs chief of the CPSU recalled that the main thrust is directed against the American position in Iran.

A dual strategy is meant to insure success: Exploiting the revolt of "Islamic fundamentalism" as long as it serves the communist objectives and smashes the conventional structures, until the Tudeh Party either is strong enough to seize power or, after the model of Afghanistan, to ask the Soviet Union "for fraternal aid."

In the meantime, leadership forces in the political, military, and economic sectors oriented toward the West are to be isolated and the internal resistance against the "progressive forces" guided by the Soviets under the cloak of the support for Islam is to be eliminated.

Carter's Predictions on Hostages

JN152143 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] I do not know anything about the Iranian policy. It is quite natural for Jimmy Carter, speaker of these words, not to know anything about the Iranian policy, for this policy has puzzled him and gotten him into a whirlpool that has no beginning or end. He predicted before the deposed shah's departure from the United States that Iran would release the hostages as soon as the shah left, but the hostages were not. He again predicted that the hostages will be released as soon as Waldheim arrives in Tehran. Waldheim arrived and left, but the hostages did not. He once again predicted that New Year's eve would witness an important event; namely, the release of hostages. But what he predicted did not come true.

Before the presidential elections in Iran, Carter announced that the hostages will be released when a president for the republic is elected. The president was elected and the hostages were not released. At last, tired of so many predictions, he said for the last time that the hostages will be released when the Islamic National Consultative Assembly is formed. How poor Carter is. He has a right to say I do not understand anything about the Iranian policy because he does not understand what is right.

The policies which are based on what is wrong and on personal interests and colonialist benefits are well understood by Carter. He is even ready to give lessons in such a policy. The policy of correct logic and rights puzzles Carter's mind and his advisers' minds. It is even puzzling for his electronic computers, despite the fact that the truth is clear and does not need any effort to be learned and discovered. The truth is like the sun. All people believe in its presence, but it cannot be easily seen.

If Carter and those like him were a little bit for what is right, they would have understood Iran, its policy, its great revolution and what the Iranian people want. But [words indistinct] preventing them to use their minds and feelings to understand the simplest facts that exist in Iran.

Regarding the issue of the hostages, which puzzled the U.S. mind, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the people, said scores of times: The issue is in the hands of the people. They are the ones who occupied the embassy and detained the hostages. It is the people who will release them. Were these words not enough for Carter to understand something about the issue of the hostages? Were they not enough to put an end to his bewilderment? The problem of Carter and his equals is that they believe that the leaders of the Islamic revolution think in the same manner as they do; that is, they take into consideration the wrong political equations, and in light of these equations, they plan their policies. However, a prudent leadership never adopts a logic contrary to that of what is right or gives their attention to spontaneous interests. Since the first day, our pioneering concept has been the truth and in light of this, the revolution procession marched until it reached the shore of safety and stability.

If Carter reviews Imam Khomeyni's words on the hostages, he will understand everything and will have peace of mind. The imam, who left the issue of hostages in the people's hands, said a few days ago that the fate of the hostages is in the hands of the Islamic National Consultative Assembly, which will be formed after the announcement of the results of recent elections. This is the logic of the revolution and truth. It is the will of people that decides, not the whims of persons. The decision will be in the hands of the people's representatives in the assembly.

This is a climax of prudent democracy, in which the revolution believes. Carter has not understood even this fact. Yes, Carter has not understood it because he does not know of any pioneering democracy as that in Iran today. If he understands the meaning of giving the people the right to issue a decision, he would not have said: I do not understand anything about the Iranian policy. If this prudent democracy had been followed in the United States and if he gives the U.S. people the right to issue a decision, would he have said I do not understand anything about the Iranian policy?

Shall we consider Carter ignorant of Iranian rights, ignorant of the U.S. people's rights or rather ignorant of himself?

Commission Member on Situation

LD161219 Kuwait KUNA in English 1025 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 16 (KUNA)--The UN commission investigating the alleged atrocities of Iran's deposed shah will not return to Tehran at least until next month, the Syrian delegate to the commission was quoted as saying Sunday. In an interview with AL-ANBA newspaper, the Syrian diplomat Adib Daoudy said the commission will wait until the Iranian elections are over.

Daoudy, who is also political adviser to Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad, said the commission has a two-fold assignment: We are to investigate the shah's "atrocities" and seek a settlement to the Iranian-American dispute. The two issues cannot be separated, he said.

The commission, formed last month by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, is to seek a solution to the problem of the U.S. hostages in Tehran. The commission which includes other delegates from Algeria, Venezuela, Sri Lanka and France had spent seventeen days in Tehran but failed to see the hostages.

Daoudy attributed the commission's failure to the insistence of Iranian students that the commission should see some of the hostages and not all of them. The Syrian delegate said the commission had completed the first part of its assignment by investigating Iran's accusations against the shah's regime. He added Iran had estimated that 90,000 people were killed during the shah's regime for political reasons, and some 150,000 others were handicapped or wounded.

14 MARCH DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING MAJLES ELECTIONS

BBC Report

TA141540 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Mar 80 TA

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] Voting for Iran's first postrevolutionary Parliament is well underway, with a fair turnout reported in many areas. The polling has apparently been peaceful, although in three towns in the Kurdish region, the elections have been suspended because of what the Interior Ministry described as activity by armed groups. Two hundred and seventy delegates are being chosen from a long list of candidates and for those who fail to gain an absolute majority this time, there'll be a second round of voting on 3 April. From Tehran, Tim Llewelyn reports.

[Begin recording] Ayatollah Khomeyni, still recovering from his heart ailment, voted early in the morning at home in his modest white villa in north Tehran, depositing his ballot slip in a box brought by a mobile voting booth. In midtown, at the occupied United States Embassy, the militant students placed their votes at a desk erected by election officials, just inside the main embassy gates. They did not wish to leave the embassy compound for obvious security reasons. President Bani-Sadr drove to south Tehran, a working class area where he is enormously popular, to cast his vote, then roared off in a convoy for a spot check of voting booths to make sure there were no abuses of the electoral system. This is always a danger in a country where there's a high illiteracy rate and people are having to use friends, advisers or scribes to write on the ballot forms the names of their choice of candidates. In Tehran, voters have to write 30 names. The turnout generally seemed reasonable, but not as high, by any means, as for January's presidential elections. The most impressive turnout I saw was at one of Tehran's main Armenian churches, where long queues of Armenians were waiting to choose the candidates who will represent their small minority in north Iran. The government here in Iran has been continually urging all those eligible to vote, more than 20 million, as it feared a low turnout could discredit the new legislature and open the way for the leftist fedayeen and radical Muslim mojahedin to win seats. The candidates across the country include a wide range of political labels, from conservative to old guard liberal, to far left, but all, of course, stressing Islam and many mullahs, religious men, are running. [end recording]

Mahdavi Kani Statement on Elections

LD141735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1659 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdavi Kani, supervisor of the Interior Ministry, in a statement issued tonight expressed his gratitude to all classes of the nation for their genuine cooperation in helping responsible officials to hold the elections. Here is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, noble and combative Iranian nation: Considering the responsibility of the Interior Ministry in holding and supervising the elections for the Consultative Assembly, all groups, parties and candidates were invited to supervise the process of the elections by introducing their representatives, bearing a special card. However, regrettably, an unauthorized group resorted, in various forms, to propaganda and confused public opinion. This group even called on various polling stations, while lacking any authorization, and resorted to unwarranted interference.

In view of such action, the security forces, while upholding their responsibility in observing the law and regulations, arrested a number of people on the basis of available evidence. A competent court will attend to their cases and will decide accordingly. While expressing its gratitude to the noble Iranian nation that, through its genuine cooperation, has helped officials, the Interior Ministry hopes that competent authorities will clarify the facts. Consequently, we call on the nation to refrain from calling on security officials and the committees until such time as the situation is clarified.

[Signed] Mahdavi Kani, supervisor of the Interior Ministry.

Shari'at-Madari's Vote

LD142109 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to a reporter of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic in Mashhad, the people of this city from the early hours of this morning formed lines to vote. The report says that today at noon Ayatollah Shari at-Madari cast his vote at the polling station set up at his house.

15 MARCH DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING MAJLES ELECTIONS

Majles Election Results

LD150647 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] The first two members of Parliament for the National Consultative Assembly are known. According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY report from Zahedan, the result of the vote count in Zahedan was announced by the office of the governor in this city as follows: Total votes counted were 18,281, out of which Mohammad 'Ali Tatari received 9,639 votes; Dr Mohammad Ebrahim Akbari 4,533, and 'Abdorrahman Rigi 1,731 votes.

The latest report from Babol indicates that Hojjat ol-Eskam Mohammad Fazel received 41,751 votes, or 58 percent, an absolute majority, and was thus elected as a member of the National Consultative Assembly on the first ballot.

More Election Results

LD151142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to dispatches received from our correspondents in the provincial cities the counting off votes to the National Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran has so far been completed in 22 provincial cities and deputies from 22 provincial cities have been elected to the National Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic on a majority vote.

According to these dispatches the following have been elected:

Deputy	City	Votes Obtained	Total Votes Cast
Dr Seyyed Reza Paknezhad	Yazd	41,246	72,363
Seyyed Javad Sherafat	Shushtar	21,288	25,637
Mohammad Emami Kashani	Kashan	45,981	------
Seyyed Mohammad Medhi Ja'fari	Borazjan	18,625	32,560
'Ali Mohammad Besharati	Jahrom	37,159	42,590
Dr Ahmad Beheshti	Fasa	23,622	37,146
Abolqasem Zati	Tabas	27,634	39,084
Seyyed Mohammad Khatami	Ardakan	23,090	40,112
Shamsoddin Hoseyni Naini	Na'in	6,012	10,855
Mohammad 'Ali Montazeri	Najafabad	53,747	58,662
Mohammad Ghani Bolurian	Mahabad	29,386	36,632
Hasan Ruhani	Semnan	19,108	30,629
Mohammad Zeyd Behbahani	Mahshahr	17,994	27,743
Mohammad Fazel	Babol	41,771	71,988
Mohammad Yazdi	Qom	129,687	------
Sadeq Khalkhali	Qom	123,136	------
'Abdolmohammad Nazari	Bandar-e Lengeh	10,031	17,838
Dr Mohammad Khalili	Baft	11,876	30,067
Majid Ansari	Zarand	14,368	------
Ahmad Hemmati	Moshgin	31,832	42,712
Mohammad Mojtahed Shabastar	Shabestar	20,413	27,259
Qodrat Najafi	Shahreza	17,711	32,893
Mohammad Taqi Lammalnia	Quchan	16,322	31,311

Convening of Majles

NC151511 Paris AFP in English 1454 GMT 15 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 15 (AFP)--The future Iranian assembly will not begin legislating until May 21 or 22, Revolutionary Council member Hojjat ol-Eslam Bahonar predicted today in an interview with the newspaper KEYHAN. Hojjat ol-Eslam Bahonar, a founding member of the Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party, said newly-elected members of the assembly will meet for the first time about ten days after final election results are determined on around April 9.

However, he added, before they begin their legislative duties, they must be sworn in, adopt an internal code of rules of procedure and approve the government to be proposed by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr.

Only after completing these formalities, around May 21 or 22, will the duties of the council of the revolution come to an end and the legislative work of the assembly begin, the Hojjat ol-Eslam said.

Mr Bahonar's analysis contradicted yesterday's statement by Interior Minister Mahdavi Kani, who said that the assembly could begin meeting even before the second round of the current Iranian legislative elections if a two-thirds majority of the new assembly's members were elected during the first round of voting.

BBC Report on Elections

TA151618 London BBC World Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 80 TA

[From "World News"]

[Text] Officials of the Iranian Ministry of the Interior have said the country's new Parliament, the first since the downfall of the former shah, could start sitting immediately if more than two thirds of the seats were filled by yesterday's first round of voting. Early returns from provincial centers say a number of candidates have already received the required absolute majority of votes cast. Where no candidate wins such a majority, the main contenders will take part in a second round of elections at the beginning of next month. One of the questions the new Parliament will be asked to decide is the fate of the American hostages held in the embassy in Tehran.

Further Election Results

LD151836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] According to the supervisor of election headquarters at the Interior Ministry, election results in 35 cities have been announced. [begin supervisor recording]

So far, voting results in 35 cities have been announced. The deputies for 15 cities have been determined. This means that these deputies have received absolute majorities. As for the rest namely for 20 other cities, a second round of elections will have to be held.

The cities where candidates have been elected include Esfahan, Rafsanjan, Ferdows, Tafresh constituency in the central province, Varamin in Tehran and Nahavand in Hamadan Province.

Defeat of Communists, Leftists

LD152026 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The results of the Parliamentary elections in 28 election districts are already announced. So far, Islamic Republican Party candidates have got the majority of votes. Among those who have received the highest vote counts are Ayatollah Khalkhali and Ayatollah Montazeri. Neither one of them were the Islamic Republican Party candidate, however. Among those who have got the highest number of votes in 28 election districts, there are some with 50 percent plus one vote, which is the minimum requirement for a candidate to be admitted into the Parliament in the first stage of the elections. So far, more than 60 seats in the Parliament are taken.

The second stage of the elections will be held in the early April. According to what the vote counts have shown, not more than 150 of the total 276 will be occupied in the first stage of the Parliamentary elections. Meanwhile, Mr Mahdavi Kani, the director in charge of the state ministry, has announced that if two-thirds of the seats were taken in the first part of the election, the Parliament will begin its duties.

According to the latest reports, regarding Iran's Parliamentary elections, the communist and leftist groups are strongly being defeated in the number of vote counts. So far, none of their candidates have been elected. The Islamic Republic of Iran's president, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, said in an interview last night that the Parliament's job will be legislation and supervision over the government's performance. He said he hoped that the Parliament will maintain an unpenetrable personality.

16 MARCH DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING MAJLES ELECTIONS

More Election Results

LD160555 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to dispatches, counting of votes to the National Consultative Assembly has been completed in several other cities. The following deputies have been elected:

Deputy	City
'Ali Malakuti	Sarab
Sheykh 'Abbas 'Abbasi	Minab
'Ali Mo'ini	Sahmud
'Ali Naqi Naqavi	Qa'en
Esma'il Ferdowsipur	Ferdows
Qadr 'Abdiput	Sardasht and Piranshahr
Seyyed Mohammad Nazari	Bandar-e Lengeh
Mohammad Rashidian	Abadan
Hojjat ol-Eslam Lahuti	Rasht
Mohammad Shoja'i	Zanjan

Two other contenders from Abadan, two contenders from Rasht and one contender from Zanjan did not gain absolute majorities and thus went through to the second round. Also, the results show that in following cities the elections will go to the second round:

Hamadan, Kermanshah, Abadeh, Golpaygan, Sarvestan, Natanz, Estahban, Neyriz, Jiroft, Marvdasht, Fariman, Larestan, Khormoshk, Borujerd, Lahijan, Pol Dokhtar, Maku, Sonqor Kolya'i, Salmas, Ahvaz, Kazerun, Ahar, Bostanabad, Sahneh, Harsin, Kangavar and Gorgan.

BBC on Results

TA160702 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Mar 80 TA

[From "News Desk"]

[Text] Votes are being counted in the first Parliamentary elections since the overthrow of the shah. Only a few results have so far been declared and already there is some indication as to which way the voting may be going. From Tehran Alex Brody reports:

[Begin recording] Although it is still too early to predict the outcome, it does look as if the clergy-dominated Islamic Republican Party is doing well. Its members have won most of the 30 or so seats so far declared where one candidate has got an absolute majority on the first ballot. So at this stage an upset for the clergy, still the dominant power in Iran, seems unlikely. No results have yet emerged from Tehran, but 30 seats are at stake. However, sources close to the count say former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan is at the top of the poll, and the mojahedin leader, (?Masud Rajavi), has polled heavily.

It is in Tehran that the loosely-knit group of supporters of President Bani-Sadr will have to get elected if they are going to deprive the clergy of control of Parliament but they are largely unknown and will probably lose out to personalities. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry has said that if sufficient seats are (?polled) on the first ballot, Parliament can assemble and that opens the question of whether it will discuss the hostages issue earlier than May, as had been expected. However, if the Parliament is dominated by the IRP it could find itself discussing whether to put some of the hostages on trial rather than whether to release them.

As results come in it is difficult to work out which grouping is ahead as the names carry no party label and many are endorsed by more than one, some by four or five. President Bani-Sadr wants a strong Parliament, but he also wants a Parliament that will support his aim of centralizing authority and neutralizing the many alternative power centers that now flourish. Whether he has got that will probably not be clear until Parliament sits and shows its hand over the first major issue. There are so many possible alliances and so few clear dividing lines. [end recording]

Tabriz Ballot Count

GF161625 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azerbaijani 1430 GMT 16 Mar 80 GF

[Text] The governor of Tabriz, commenting on election ballot counts, said the ballot count in Tabriz will be completed tonight.

Tabriz and its outlying districts had a total of 493 ballot boxes for the election of 67 candidates.

In Azarshahr District, with 37 ballot boxes, one of the boxes was declared void by the governor's office in Tabriz.

The governor of Tabriz said eight people have been arrested during the course of the election. These eight individuals were trying to create disorder at voting places.

Bani-Sadr on Election Fraud

LD161445 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] President Bani-Sadr, in the course of an interview before noon today with the PARS NEWS AGENCY on the manner in which the elections were held, said: There have been certain complaints about alleged fraud during the elections. These complaints ought to be investigated. If it is proved that such fraud in the elections is rather extensive and serious, then the elections shall be annulled.

Bani-Sadr added: Obviously wherever fraud is extensive the elections shall be considered as annulled, as no one can defend inappropriate elections. However, I do not believe such fraud applies to all regions.

Mahdavi Kani Comment

LD161456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The supervisor of the Interior Ministry, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdavi Kani, in an interview given to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, commenting on the point that the extent of fraud is not serious enough to annul the elections, said: All complaints will be attended to, and should they prove valid and acceptable they will be taken into consideration: Otherwise, unsubstantiated complaints will be considered as null and void.

He added: A great many of the groups complaining about fraudulent elections are themselves the subject of complaints. These groups are at present being detained and officials are engaged in investigating the two sides' complaints.

Further BBC Reportage

TA161540 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Mar 80 TA

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] There's a long, slow process of counting votes in Iran after the first stage of elections for the country's first revolutionary Parliament continues. There have been widespread accusations of ballot-rigging. Indeed, President Bani-Sadr has gone so far as to say the election will be declared null and void if it's found that there was widespread cheating. Here's our correspondent in Tehran, Alex Brody.

[Begin recording] Allegations of ballot-rigging were to be expected and they have come from all sides, but they are being taken seriously, certainly by President Bani-Sadr, who is anxious that Parliament should have full credibility. He told the official PARS NEWS AGENCY that the whole election would be declared null and void if cheating was proved to be widespread and serious, and he said all allegations must be investigated. The radical Muslim mojahedin guerrillas have called for the election in Tehran to be annulled. Several candidates from Tabriz, in Azarbayjan, have asked the same thing for their area and one prominent ex-minister is said to have withdrawn his candidacy in protest at irregularities. The opportunities for ballot-rigging were most obvious in Tehran. Here voters, many illiterate, had to write down 30 names and, despite a ruling that no posters were to be displayed at the booths, many found preprepared lists being pushed into their hands. There were lists circulating beneath a picture of Ayatollah Khomeyni, suggesting he had endorsed them. Election statements were distributed at Friday prayers, much against the rules, and one political leader remarked that as long as the country had the problem of illiteracy, the true representatives of the people would not get into Parliament.

Right up until the day of polling, calls were still being made for the election to be postponed because of inadequate organization, too few safeguards and general confusion. Very few results have yet been officially declared, but the PARS NEWS AGENCY is carrying more than 120. Of these, less than 50 have produced a winner on the first ballot and most of those have been won by the clergy-dominated alliance, the Islamic Republican Party. So, although there is a long way to go, the strongly Islamic groups seem unlikely to be unseated from their dominant position in today's Iran. Many of the thousands of candidates were unknown, and it is felt that personalities would do well. Early results seem to bear that out. The religious judge, Ayatollah Khalkhali, who is said to have ordered the execution of some 300 people, is elected, as is Rear Admiral Madani, the runner-up to Mr Bani-Sadr in the presidential election. [end recording]

Voting Results for 100 Cities

ID161715 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] The final results of voting in 100 cities have been announced. The supervisor of the election headquarters, in a telephone conversation, told our reporter tonight that according to the final results of the votes counted, 41 representatives in the Consultative Assembly have been announced and the elections in 49 cities of our country have been extended to a second round of voting.

Bani-Sadr Instructions on Voting

ID161904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president, tonight asked the Tehran election supervision committee to announce the results of each day's voting at the end of the same day. The presidential office, while announcing this, published a statement tonight. The text of this statement, which has been given to the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is as follows:

The Tehran election supervision committee please take the measures necessary to implement the order of the president:

1. Announce the total number of votes cast region by region;

2. Announce the voting results for each day at the end of the same day;

3. Fully consider the complaints of each zone separately, for the number of such complaints is considerable.

Summary of Returns

ID162000 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The latest report of the elections of the Islamic National Assembly of Iran say most of the candidates have to compete at the second round of elections because just a few of them received the absolute majority to get seats at the Parliament.

Therefore, opening of the Islamic National Assembly has been postponed after the second round of the elections because more than two-thirds of the candidates have to compete in the second round of the elections. So far 54 candidates have gained the absolute majority vote and therefore are eligible to have seats in the Parliament. The Islamic Republican Party of Iran with 29 seats so far is leading the elections.

Following the Islamic Republican Party comes the independent candidates and the candidates introduced by the office of cooperation of people with the president. The Kurdish Democratic Party and the National Front each have gained two seats in the assembly. The Freedom Movement of Iran led by the former prime minister, Mehdi Bazargan, has so far been able to send one candidate to the Parliament.

MORE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED 17 MAR

LD170531 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to dispatches received, the counting of votes for the first National Consultative Assembly indicates that three Mashhad deputies have been elected on the first ballot. The fourth member of Parliament for Mashhad will be elected in the second round. The three deputies of Mashhad are Dr Mohammad Hadi 'Abd-Khoda'i, Dr 'Abdolhamid Dialameh and Dr Qasem Sadeqi.

In Ardabil Seyyed Fakhroddin Mosavi was elected, and the second person will be elected in the second round. Qazvin results show that Haj Seyyed 'Abbas Abutorabi-Fard and Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed Javadi have been elected as Qazvin deputies in the first round.

Khosrow Sowlat Qashqa'i gained an absolute majority and was elected as the deputy of Eqlid in the National Consultative Assembly.

The Interior Ministry announced that elections have stopped in Firuzabad due to disturbances in this city.

OFFICIALS' RESIGNATIONS, ARREST REPORTED

Mahdavi Kani on Foruhar Resignation

LD161726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1654 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdavi Kani, commenting on the resignation of Daryush Foruhar as a protest against fraud in the elections, has said: In my opinion, it would have been better if he had submitted documented complaints instead of resigning, so that they can be investigated and so the public can be informed.

The supervisor of the Interior Ministry added: The Interior Ministry's final decision on the protests against the handling of the election will be announced 3 days after the announcerent of the final results.

More on Foruhar Resignation

LD162122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Foruhar's office at the Prime Ministry today issued the following announcement about the resignation of the minister without portfolio and member of the government's special delegation to Kordestan, who resigned his post in protest against fraudulence in the elections:

Daryush Foruhar has submitted his resignation to Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution of the Iranian nation, in protest against the malpractices that have taken place in the Majles election; he has also sent a copy to the president.

Qoddusi Resignation

LD151950 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's attorney general, Hojjat ol-Eslam Qoddusi, has resigned his post. In an announcement he said he has delivered his resignation to the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, and he hopes that it would be approved.

Khomeyni Rejection of Qoddusi Resignation

LD161112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Imam Khomeyni's bureau announced in a statement issued at 1300 today that the resignation of the Islamic revolution attorney general has not been accepted. The text of the statement is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The resignation of the Islamic revolution attorney general, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Qoddusi, has not been accepted by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic.

His excellency the imam has decreed that Qoddusi has, as before, his blessings and should continue his work at the Prosecutor's Office of the Islamic Revolution.

[Signed] Imam Khomeyni's bureau, Qom, 16 March 1980.

Arrest of 3 Judges

LD151214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to a correspondent of the central new unit in Rasht Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, our country's president, arrived in Rasht by airplane at 0930 this morning to investigate the arrest of three of Lanjarud's judges.

Upon the president's arrival in Rasht the governor-general of Gilan and civilian and military officials welcomed him. Then the president and his entourage went to the office of Lanjarud's governor, and in a meeting there he began investigating the arrest of the three judges of Lanjarud.

At the meeting the director general of the Justice Department of Gilan and the head of the Justice Department of Lanjarud objected to the mode of action of the governor and the Guards Corps of Lanjarud in connection with the arrest of the three judges, which was carried out improperly.

The meeting is still in progress and the people of Lanjarud have gathered around the office of the governor of the town so as to be informed of the result of the investigation and also to hear the speech by the president after the meeting is over.

During the past few days when the three judges clashed with a number of applicants one of them drew a gun and threatened the lives of the applicants.

The three judges were arrested by the Guards Corps and the head of the Justice Department of East Lanjarud and the people gathered outside the governor's office and the justice office of the town.

In his trip to the Province of Gilan, the president will also issue necessary orders and carry out other investigations about other issues in the province.

Bani-Sadr on Arrests

LD151830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] According to our reporter in Rasht center, Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of our country, who is in Lanjarud to investigate problems there, today, after taking part in the investigative session studying the detention of three judges in Lanjarud which led to a protest by the judges of the Justice Department of Gilan Province, attended a gathering of the people of Lanjarud. In a speech, he said: [read by announcer]

In order to establish judicial security in the country, judges should be able to pass judgement in an atmosphere of freedom and security. All you brothers and sisters who have gathered here despite the rain and are listening to me should know that in order to establish security and trust, the rights of the oppressed must be restored.

What happened in Lanjarud, according to the report handed to me, is that the judge was questioning a thief when a group took advantage of the opportunity and protest against the manner of questioning. Now you have left the town as an expression of protest. If you want your town to enjoy security, your judges should be respected. Judges of the Justice Department have gathered in Rasht and this strong judicial system should restore the right of the oppressed. Otherwise, anyone with a firearm will disturb the peace. Now that you want a strong judicial system I will tell the judges that the government is an Islamic one and does not intend to weaken the judicial system. Our interest lies in the strengthening of the judicial system.

Tomorrow, you should take the judges back to the Justice Department with due respect and prove to those who think that they can disturb judicial security through conspiracies in an Islamic country that they will not succeed. [passage indistinct] Today I have come here to [word indistinct] and explain. Next time I will come here to punish the suppressors. They should know that they should observe their limits. These people have elected a president and a Majles; officials have been appointed. [passage indistinct]

Dr Bani-Sadr added: Sisters and brothers, your province has great potential. On the way here, the governor general said that factories have not yet resumed work. I told him that the officials cannot solve the problems by letter. They must come to Tehran, obtain the budget and the money they need and return to the location in order to create jobs. I do not intend to imprison myself in the capital. I will go to different provinces. I will come to your province and will stay here to observe the development projects closely.

Dr Bani-Sadr, the president of our country, today went to the Guards Corps base in Rasht and took part in their noon and evening mass prayers. At the gathering of the Guards Corps, Dr Bani-Sadr said: You are the hope of Iran's present and future. Do not use the power invested in you by Islam in any way other than God's way and do not step outside the limits of the law.

According to the same reports, Dr Bani-Sadr attended a gathering of judges and employees of the Justice Department of Gilan Province. At this gathering the judges and employees of the Justice Department demanded security for judges in Lanjarud. Dr Bani-Sadr said: Tomorrow, the three judges of the Justice Department in Lanjarud will return to work and people will welcome them and respect them. In order to investigate the issue thoroughly, two judges will come to Lanjarud from Tehran to deal with the problem and if there are any ill intentions detected, those responsible will be prosecuted. Dr Bani-Sadr, the president of our country, left Rasht for Tehran at 1745 today.

SITUATION IN KORDESTAN REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Ban on Sanandaj Elections

LD141555 Tehran BAMDAD in Persian 12 Mar 80 p 1, 3 LD

[BAMDAD correspondent report: "Statement by Sheykh Ezzedin Hoseyni on the Elections"]

[Text] Mahabad--A statement has been published by Sheykh Ezzedin Hoseyni concerning the suspension in Sanandaj of elections to the National Islamic Consultative Assembly.

The statement reads in part: "Under circumstances in which the state authorities, and in particular the president are talking of creating an atmosphere of freedom and security for the elections, the Interior Ministry has suspended the elections in Sanandaj on the pretext that there are armed groups in the town.

"The progressive forces in Iran, and liberals across the country who have visited Kordestan have testified that a situation of discipline and security is to be found in all the town of Kordestan. While every day the papers bring news of bloody clashes, attacks by club-wielders against demonstrations and gatherings of the people, and of fierce street clashes in most places in the country, Kordestan remains free and secure."

Elsewhere in this statement, Sheykh Ezzedin Hoseyni says: "We appeal to Iranian liberals, progressive and anti-imperialist forces and all the people of Iran to raise their voices in protest against this selfish act on the part of the Interior Ministry, and condemn this resolutely.

"In this connection we call upon the president, who is responsible for the safeguarding, and control of electoral freedom, to fulfill his responsibility, and we demand that he should rescind the illogical and selfish decisions made by the Interior Ministry in suspending the elections in Sanandaj."

Concluding his statement, Sheykh Ezzedin Hoseyni warns that in the face of the warmongering reactionaries, progressive and liberal forces and also the [ethnic] peoples of Iran can and must, by means of revolutionary solidarity and unity and with the decisive and ungrudging support of the just Kurdish people's movement, impose peace, and achieve peaceful, political solutions to the Kordestan issue.

Formation of Military Pact

NC142150 Paris AFP in English 2129 GMT 14 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 14 (AFP)--Kurdish nationalist groups in the provincial capital of Sanandaj today signed a pact for concerted political and military action following clashes that have claimed at least seventeen lives in the past two days, Kurdish sources contacted there said.

The move follows the Interior Ministry's postponement of today's Islamic Assembly election in the town, which led to a large protest at Sanandaj on Wednesday and a hunger strike in the main mosque today.

The Marxist-Leninist Komiteh and Feda'i-ye Khalq groups, two of the four signatories to the pact, described it as a political and military agreement.

A spokesman for the banned Iranian Kordestan Democratic Party (KDP), the third signatory, said it principally covered political cooperation. The fourth group consists of supporters of Kurdish Sunni religious leader Sheykh Ezzedin Hoseyni.

Clashes between nationalist Kurds and Revolutionary Guards and pro-government Kurdish militia near Kamyaran to the south yesterday, according to the KDP, claimed the lives of one nationalist and eight Revolutionary Guards or militiamen.

Protest Actinns Planned

NC151533 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT 15 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 15 (AFP)--Three Kurdish towns are to stage a series of general strikes, sit-ins, demonstrations and hunger strikes to protest an Interior Ministry order declaring the results of polling for the future Islamic Assembly there null and void, a spokesman for the Iranian Kordestan Democratic Party (KDP) told AFP.

The towns, Marivan, Saqqez and Baneh, all in Kordestan Province, will spread the protest over three days, the spokesman, contacted in the Kurdish stronghold of Mahabad, said. The protests follow a general strike, mass demonstration and hunger strike in the provincial capital of Sanandaj, where the polling stations remained closed yesterday on the orders of acting Interior Minister Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani.

The KDP, a party officially banned by the Iranian authorities, has, however, won the Islamic Assembly seat for Mahabad, the only result so far received from the Northerwestern Kurdish provinces. Kurdish groups contacted in Mahabad and Sanandaj meanwhile reported that the area was calm today following clashed between Kurdish nationalists and Revolutionary Guards and pro-government Kurdish militia that, according to the Kurds, claimed at least 17 lives since Thursday near Sanandaj.

Ayatollah Kani postponed the poll in Sanandaj and declared the results from the other three towns invalid on the grounds that the presence of armed groups hindered the holding of free elections. He made his decision on the advice of the special government delegation to Kordestan.

The people of Sanandaj have continued their protest by signing a massive petition measuring more than 20 metres (60 feet) and containing more than 65,000 names, sources there said. Different Kurdish nationalist groups in the town have also set up a united command to coordinate their response to problems, following clashes at Kamyaran to the south and Qorveh to the east.

KDP candidate in Sanandaj, Rahim Baghdadi, told AFP that pro-government Kurdish militia and Revolutionary Guards stationed near Kamyaran and Qorveh were "looking to create problems at the moment because of the elections."

OIL, GAS DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Price Increase for High-Grade Oil

LD161944 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1658 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The oil minister, in an interview with the PARS NEWS AGENCY, has commented on the special high-grade price [haq-e marghubiat] for Iranian crude. He said: Dating back to the beginning of 1980, Iran intends to charge an additional sum--in addition to the official price--for 50 percent of its oil on account of its special high grade. This sum will be variable as there is a time element involved. He added: The minimum that this sum will be for the early part of 1980 will be $3 per barrel, and this will be gradually increased.

The oil minister pointed out: With regard to new agreements on the sale of crude and the 3-monthly agreements which expire at the end of March, the rate of the special high-grade will be increased to a sum far exceeding $3. He said: The increase in the official price for Iranian crude has nothing to do with the special high-grade price and will receive separate consideration on every occasion.

AFP had announced--quoting the Iranian oil minister--that from next week the Iranian Government will increase the special high-grade price for one-half of its crude oil from $3 per barrel to $4 and 25 cents.

USSR Natural Gas Price Negotiations

LD161205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1047 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] In a telephone conversation with the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the resumption of talks between officials of the Oil Ministry and the Soviet delegation, the oil minister stated: Our talks were still in progress yesterday. Mr Osipov, the first [as heard] accompanied by Mr Derezhov, deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of Gas Industry, and the other members of the Soviet delegation were present at the Oil Ministry and extensive talks were held in a session attended by myself and Iranian experts.

Mr Osipov informed us that he had raised the matter with Moscow. Considering the fact that the price proposed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a great deal higher than the price at which the Soviet Union sells her gas to other countries, the Soviet Government can not accept the price proposed by Iran in connection with the increase in the price of gas.

The oil ministers added: In the session it was stated that our proposed price is similar to world prices that gas is traded at at present. For example, the selling price of Mexican and Canadian gas to the United States and changes in the price of gas in Europe were pointed out.

Unfortunately, and considering the fact that our talks are being held in a friendly atmosphere, it seems that the Soviet delegation is not fully prepared to accept the rightful wish of the Iranian nation and takes advantage of our weak point in connection with investment in gas pipelines and that they are the sole customer for our gas.

While we pointed out that the decisive stance of the government and the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to flare the surplus gas at the wells, and at the same time, to preserve our national rights and fair trade between the two countries. [sentence as heard]

Nevertheless, our talks have been without results so far, and the Soviet delegation that was to return to Moscow tomorrow has deferred its trip. Mr Osipov stated regarding this matter that he would inform Moscow of the results of the last stage of the talks and the talks would be resumed once and answer was received.

The oil minister concluded: The stance of the Iranian Government is perfectly clear, and we believe that we should sell our goods at a price equivalent to its worth; not that we should sell it cheaply because there is only one customer.

PLO Denial of Pact

NC161932 Paris AFP in English 1925 GMT 16 Mar 80 NC

[Text] London, March 17 (AFP)--Iran has made a secret pact with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) providing it two dollars for every barrel of oil Iran sells [words indistinct] for "operational services" such as fighting enemies of the current regime, the SUNDAY TIMES reported today. The PLO representative in Tehran denied any knowledge of the affair and told AFP: "If this were true we would be rich, very rich."

The London newspaper said its Paris correspondent learned of the agreement, signed by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and the PLO, from sources close to the Iranian Government. But new Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr was not told of the deal beforehand and was worried about its long-term implications, the TIMES added.

It said that in connection with the agreement, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat had asked Iran to modify a recent oil treaty with Malta limiting Libya's business activities on the island. The treaty had stopped Libya from selling oil to Malta at privileged prices.

BANI-SADR: PRESIDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO BE INCREASED

JN161029 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0810 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] The newspaper BAMDAD publishes the following headline on its first page: "Bani-Sadr Announces: Imam Khomeyni Will Increase My Responsibilities With the Beginning of the New Iranian Year." The paper says: In a general public meeting in Lanjarud in Gilan Province, north of Tehran, president of the republic Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has stressed that his government is determined to establish judificary security in all parts of the country.

President Bani-Sadr said: The imam will increase the authorities and responsibilities of the president of the republic with the beginning of the new Iranian year.

INA: OFFICIALS SAY 'CIA AGENTS' IN FOREIGN MINISTRY

JN152012 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Tehran, 15 March--Two under secretaries of the Iranian Foreign Ministry said that the state of chaos prevailing in the ministry was the reason for resigning their posts.

Kamal Kharrazi, the ministry's under secretary for political affairs, and Sadeq Tehrani, the ministry's under secretary for international and economic affairs, said that Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh used to make decisions individually and that anyone who objected to this was liquidated [tatim tasfiyatuhu].

In statements published here today, they affirmed that they learned about important decisions, including those on Iranian issues at the United Nations, from the newspapers. The ministry's two under secretaries revealed the presence of CIA agents in the Foreign Ministry.

RADIO-TV SUPERVISORY COUNCIL ISSUES STATEMENT

LD161326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Statement issued by the supervisory council of the Islamic Republic's Voice and Profile of Iran; date not given--ready by announcer]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Difficulties have often emerged as a consequence of lack of familiarity by responsible officials with the regulations, practice and limitations experienced by news and production units of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These difficulties at times result in misunderstandings and irregularities. The supervisory council of the organization therefore deems it necessary to draw the attention of everyone, especially the public relations directors of ministries and government departments, to the following points:

1. All announcements and news items must be supplied to the organization solely by the central news bureau. Officials must avoid any direct contact with the organization's directors and the news section.

2. The organization cannot be committed to broadcasting any news report or announcement, unless it is received by the central news bureau at least 2 hours before the broadcasting time of the noon and evening news programs.

3. Should it become necessary to prepare any report on interviews or special ceremonies, it is then necessary to inform the central news bureau clearly at least 48 hours in the case of radio reportage.

It is up to the organization to establish the necessary priorities and the need to prepare the reportage, on the basis of regulations and practices.

[Signed] The supervisory council of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW GENDARMERIE COMMANDER ANNOUNCED

LD151718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to a central news bureau report, Brig Gen Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad has been appointed commander of the Islamic Republic gendarmerie by Interior Ministry Supervisor Mahdavi Kani.

TABATABA'I DISCUSSES 'INJUSTICES' COMMITTED IN KHOMEYNI'S NAME

ID141303 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Mar 80 pp 1, 2 ID

[Unattributed report: "Criticism by His Great Eminence Ayatollah Tabataba'i-Qomi of the Shortcomings in the Country"]

[Excerpts] During a press conference yesterday, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Tabataba'i-Qomi [one of the five supreme religious figures, or maraje', who had come to Tehran to visit Imam Khomeyni, gave his views on the constitution, the elections, public amnesty, the radio and television, revolutionary trials, the holy war for reconstruction and other current state issues.

First, the ETTELA'AT correspondent asked: "Did you discuss current state issues in your meeting with the imam?"

Ayatollah Tabataba'i-Qomi replied: For some time now I have been most disturbed at the state of the country and the things that are happening, since it was our expectation that, under the Islamic Republic, Islamic precepts would be applied in conformity with Islamic laws.

Unfortunately, however, all the laws being applied run counter to this. Many of the trials held go against Islamic standards. Killings, imprisonment and confiscation of property are carried out in such a shameless manner as to really defy description; individuals have used the name of the holy war for reconstruction to become involved in state affairs, and have exceeded all bounds in acts of usurpation and tyranny, which reach totally indescribable proportions.

There are a number of persons who in the name of the deprived classes regularly seize people's property--they just carry off people's property--and detain them, close their bank accounts, and molest individuals going abroad for medical treatment on the grounds that they are fugitives. There are numerous cases of such injustices.

Radio and television shamelessly show things which are not of a permissible nature; they refrain from reporting my statements, yet they read out those which are contrary to Islam. The newspapers report nothing. What is this censorship currently in force in radio and television, newspapers and magazines?

People have even entered the holy Shrine of the Eighth Imam and sung loud songs--an unprecedented act.

On top of that, they defrock respectable and religious clerics against whom no case could possibly be made. I am not saying that all the clergy are blameless, but it has happened that a number of extremely eminent persons have been defrocked.

Unqualified individuals are becoming judges and presiding over courts, and there is no authority to which one may turn to complain. When a complaint is made, one judge claims that it is his concern and another rejects this and claims that it is his concern.

I told the imam all this. I said: "Sir, it is in your name and in the name of Islam that they are crushing Islam and delivering blows to Islam. Nobody has told you before and nobody will tell you the facts I am giving you now. You will never hear about them."

Why should things be like this? I spelled it all out for the imam. I told him how a farm was raided, the door of the grain store thrown open, and the grain carried off and shared out. Then a statement was issued accusing the farm owner of cruelty and other acts. The imam's representative Mr Tabasi then went there, and in his letter--which is in front of me now--he wrote:

"No one has any complaint against this farm owner; he has acted tyrannically towards no one. No weapons were found on his premises and, in short, there is no case against him." This person was kept in prison for 19 days, for 15 of which he was denied visitors. The imam's representative then writes: "He is innocent."

Unwarranted imprisonment, unjustified floggings; people are flogged in a shameful manner, with no crime having been proved against them.

One man came to see me with terrible injuries. When he showed me his body I felt sick. He had been accused of stealing in the holy shrine and they had flogged him within an inch of his life. When they wanted to release him and they realized that he could not be let out in that state, they kept him inside for a few days to allow his wounds to heal.

There are many more instances of such cruelties and injustices, with non-Islamic laws being applied in the name of Islam.

I felt that it was necessary to raise this with the imam.

They Usurp Land

At any rate, I wanted to tell the imam about this one day. In one area they went and seized people's property; then they said: "Go and smash up the stores"; elsewhere some poor, wretched peasants came and told me: "For years we have rented a few parcels of land from a landowner to raise cattle on; we keep a few cows there, living on the milk and meat they provide. Then some persons came and took the land away, saying that we should not be in possession of it. They allowed each of us to take away only one cow." Now it is such men who are counted among the mostaz'afin [the deprived].

One group of individuals who purportedly committed some misdemeanor somewhere or other and another group which was being held at the Mashhad police department were given sentences of around 15 years' imprisonment for being criminals. But most of them have wives and children, and these families will be broken up. Such vicious sentences are illogical, and what will happen to the wives and children if such punishments are meted out? I said to the imam: "You are always giving orders for unity and solidarity, but they are creating enmity, setting landlord against peasant and peasant against landlord."

Then there is another matter, more important than anything else, and that is the constitution. I had written nothing about it, and Aqaye Aqa Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and Aqaye Eshraqi recommended that I should, so I did. I wrote that these experts had taken great pains to compile an Islamic constitution, but certain articles in it contravened the riqh [body of Islamic jurisprudence] and the Shar' [religious law] and had to be corrected. I mentioned six articles which fell into this category.

However, on radio and television they had the effrontery to add three lines to my statement. I protested, and they said: "We are acting under orders." I am making available to you a copy of the original statement for you to keep.

In any event, my protests concerned Articles 107 through 112. Article 107 states that whenever the leader of the Guidance Council recognizes one person as the absolute marja' and the overall leader, all responsibilities of leadership will devolve on him; but if such recognition is not forthcoming, experts elected by the people will consider all persons qualified to be marja' and leader and will hold consultations on the matter; when one person is found to be outstanding, he will be presented as the marja'. Failing this, three or five suitably qualified persons will be declared leaders.

Two propositions emerge at this point: One person like Mr Khomeyni is found to be outstanding, and all the responsibilities of leadership become his. Otherwise, experts chosen by the people will hold a referendum in which the question will be asked: "Who is fit to be the marja'?"

In such a referendum, merchant, shopkeeper, grocer, herbalist, laborer and all and sundry will take part, and whoever wins most votes as being the qualified person will be chosen as marja'.

Give it a lot of thought: these people, these wise men, university people, university professors cannot decide, let alone such-and-such a trader or such-and-such a person. If the vote comes out of the ballot box without cheating having taken place, things will be bad enough; and if there is cheating, it will be even worse--which is what is actually going to happen.

So, these persons will appoint the leader, and the leader thus chosen may be dismissed by them.

Then Article 111 says that, whenever the leader or a member of the Guidance Council becomes incapacitated or loses one of the conditions set out in such-and such article, he will be dismissed from his post, determination of this being the responsibility of the experts; so these experts may appoint or dismiss the marja'. Then, according to Article 112, the leader, or a member of the Guidance Council is equal in law with all the other people of the country, that is, the legal immunity which the marja'ol-taqlid [authority to be emulated] used to enjoy in the past is gone. He may even be told: "Mr leader, we the experts are telling you to do this, and if you refuse we shall remove and dismiss you, or put you on trial, or we'll imprison you and put you on trial."

So this then is the law which those gentlemen have compiled, and against which I protested. But they took up my views, distorted them and added some phrases, which they ascribed to me. This was unfortunately also published by ETTELA'AT, with the same additions.

The Republican Party in the Mosques

Unfortunately, there are many illegal acts committed here, with unjustified confiscations, imprisonment, unwarranted regulations and needless slaughter. I raised the matter of the general amnesty with the imam yesterday, remarking that he was supposed to give a general amnesty. At one time, if anyone did anything or killed anyone, he suffered retribution; if he stole, the property was retrieved and given back to its owner, not to another thief. Now it is worse. Usurped property should be retrieved and given to the person from whom it was usurped not to the deprived classes.

I spoke to the governor general and to the imam's representative in Mashhad some time ago and told them: "We should be strengthening the poor and making them self-reliant, but you are weakening them and turning them into thieves. They will come to think thus: 'Now that my prayers are invalidated and I am acting in contravention of the Shar', why should I not dring wine, or kill someone.'"

If you want to strengthen them, I said, go and dig wells on uncultivated land, allot land to them, and let them cultivate it.

What can I do, and how can I publicize my views?

The Islamic Republican Party has taken over the mosques, the holy war for construction comes along and does something, then I deliver a fatwa [religious ruling in writing] and they come and speak against me. The Revolution Council then gives them billions of rials. In these circumstances, clergymen can do nothing. I talk about all this as much as I can in my speeches and in my classes. I can do nothing else.

I heard yesterday that Mr Golpayegani had complained that the radio and television had distorted his remarks. Well, what can we do when such things happen? The country is ruined and everything in it has gone to waste. I told the gentleman that the Revolution Council was corrupt and that the Islamic Republican Party was rotten and corrupt. I told him to create a guidance council made up of the maraje' [the five supreme religious authorities] and not to allow these despicable laws to be implemented, with a bunch of corrupt experts deciding who is to be a marja'--which is not their business.

Two-Tier Elections and the Constitution

The ETTELA'AT correspondent asked: "The question being raised nowadays is that the elections to the National Consultative Assembly are to be in two stages--a measure which has met with opposition from various groups and individual. What is your view of this?"

Ayatollah Tabataba'i-Qomi said: As regards these issues--about which I have already spoken--I do not recognize the legality of the constitution, because the people's votes were obtained in a fraudulent manner. When they attribute false statements to me, and in spite of my statement that this law is wrong and must be rectified, they subsequently add a few lines to this statement as follows: "Even so, it is mandatory for you to vote for it. Cast the green vote"; and some of the people, thinking that I had said this, cast their votes.

This constitution will never attain legal status. I have no belief whatever in its legality, because the people's votes were obtained in a manner which runs counter to standards. I do not therefore accept any of the votes in the election, under any circumstances.

An Obscure Political Matter

On the actions of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, the hostages issue and the relative positions of the students and the Revolution Council vis-a-vis each other, Ayatollah Tabataba'i-Qomi said: As far as I am concerned this is an obscure political matter of which the detailed particular have not yet been shown to me. I do not know what the basis for it is, or the source from which it originated, and for what reason it was carried out whether it was carried out in accordance with correct standards or not. Since I have no information, I shall not pass an opinion.

The Clergy and Politics

The question was asked: "It used to be said that the clergy and politics were not separate. Why do you keep silent on this subject?"

[Tabataba'i] The truth is, as I have said, that I have received no information about this occurrence, and I cannot pass an opinion on political matters on which I have not been informed. But it is quite true that the clergy and politics are not separate. Politics without the clergy has no meaning. When I was with Khomeyni in the Qasr and Eshratabad prisons and we were to be released, Pakravan [SAVAK chief] came to us and said: "Leave politics to us. Politics involves lies," and so on.

We told Pakravan: "When politics involves lies, duplicity, corruption and hypocrisy, these are of course your politics, not ours. For us politics means attending to the affairs of state and the interests of the community to understanding the nature of their business and speaking up--that is the clergy's task."

At that point, Pakravan said: "In your talks you said that the troops should not obey orders against the public interest, and you incited troops to disobey orders, which is against their duty."

I said: "Sir, if one day the likes of you should ever become prime minister--and God forbid that you should--you would instruct obedience to bad orders. Why should the people obey bad and ill-founded orders? Of course the troops should not obey them. They should obey Islamic and religious orders. Hence, when politics means lying, duplicity and the amassing of other people's property, that is not our sort of politics but that of America, Britain and the Soviet Union and their dependencies. Politics involving the public good of Muslims in matters of earning a livelihood, of the economy, of culture and in dealing with community affairs--these are the politics of the clergy."

The clergy must intervene in affairs. If they do not, corruption will appear. The clergy seek the truth in all issues.

On Bani-Sadr

The question was asked: "What is your view of President Bani-Sadr and of the measures he has taken so far?"

[Answer] First, as regards the president of the republic, I alone among all the maraje' did not cast a vote. I neither rejected nor approved. I have no knowledge of the president's activities or of what he is doing.

That night when he came to see me, certain gentlemen said that because his father was a clergyman he had some knowledge of the Islamic Fiqh. I told him that his economic theories were opposed to Islam's thesis and he must change it.

[Bani-Sadr] said: "It is not possible to satisfy the people with small parcels of land and leave them to gain a livelihood off such small areas."

I said: "No. There is a lot of land. Cultivate the land, dig deep wells, irrigate it, and give it to them. There is no problem."

If he has changed his thesis and fallen into line with the contents of my telegram to him, in which I said: "Only when you announce that all Islamic precepts will be applied, including those in economics, in conformity with Islamic standards, will your work be of value.

"So far I have not ascertained anything about him; I do not think he has acquired power or accomplished anything, and I am unaware of his having done anything outstanding so far."

A correspondent from JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI asked: "You said that the Revolution Council, the Islamic Republican Party, the actions of certain komitehs and executive organs and also the Council of Experts and the constitution did not meet with your approval, and that the actions of the Revolution Council at present were not all they should be. Yet for some time now we have seen the imam approving all these. If the imam knew nothing of these problems with the Revolution Council, the Islamic Republican Party or the constitution, why did he give his approval to them? Did somebody force the imam to do this? Does the imam now submit to compulsion? Or does he stand up to it? Would you please furnish further explanation in this regard?"

[Answer] As regards what I said to the imam, he told me: "I have not been informed" and "That is not really how I see it." I said: "I know that nobody apart from me has told you these things." Thus it is possible that many of these matters have not reached his attention. Moreover, apart from the Prophet and the imam, no human being is immune from making mistakes. I mean, one may not be able to assimilate everything. Perhaps there are things he has not been informed about, concerning people's past records, good or bad. Supposing there is someone who has met you many times and considers you a good man, then you develop wayward habits, God forbid, of which he is unaware. If anyone asks him about you he will still say that you are good because he has not heard otherwise. Thus it is not possible for everyone to possess complete knowledge of others, including their weak points.

In addition, I really have no knowledge of the imam's personal situation: I told him these things in a summarized form. What did he answer? He was not able to speak and kept quiet during most of the time I was speaking. One thing he did say was: "God willing, let the elections tkae place properly, and all matters will be rectified." This much he did answer me. Then, since he had no more time, and perhaps because his doctors had told him not to talk too much, he kept silent.

The question was asked: "Does his eminence the ayatollah hold a view as to the punishments being administered not being in accordance with Islam, and should the clergy decide on the laws to be applied in the Revolution Courts?"

[Tabataba'i] There is no doubt that the Islamic Courts should conform to Islamic rules and judgements, and of course many of them have been contrary to Islam. The appointment of judges, rules about witnesses and how they should give evidence--all this must conform to standards laid down in the Shar'.

The Composition of the Guidance Council

The question was asked: "You referred to your views on the Guidance Council. What are these views?"

[Answer] The Guidance Council should never in my view be the province of one person, since first the people of Iran were moqalles ["emulators"] of different marje'. They do not emulate one single marja'. In the past there have always been 10 or 11 maraje', each with his own following. When a single leader wishes only to make decisions in accordance with his own views and issue orders to [all] people as to how they should act, these orders will be at variance with decisions made by other maraje', who may not consider them lawful.

In such a case, one of two things will ensue: Either he will impose his decisions on the followers of other maraje', or he will not. If he does, then the worst type of dictatorship will occur, and if he does not there will be confusion.

Moreover, everyone is capable of making mistakes, apart from the 14 "immaculate" ones [the Prophet, his daughter, 'Ali and his 11 lineal descendants, considered infallible]. There is no one who does not err. Mistakes in small matters are acceptable, but when they occur in state affairs, they may undermine the state. Thus, to remove such errors, there will be recourse to the Guidance Council, and in my view this council should be made of only of maraje' who confer together, and whose sum total of authority is accepted by the people. Any order issued by this maraje' council will constitute a mandatory religious duty incumbent on the people, and, second, there will be no question of a dictatorship or state of confusion arising. "Error" will be thus eliminated or become very rare.

My view, therefore, is that the Guidance Council should be formed from the maraje', and that leadership is not something that can be subject to appointment, or dismissal or punishment; leadership, the marja'iyat, is ordained by God and can either be taken away nor called to account for acts of commission or omission.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CARE OF MARTYRS' FAMILIES ISSUED

LD152100 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, has in a letter issued instructions for setting up an organization to review fully the condition of the families of the martyrs of the revolution as well as those injured and crippled during the revolution. Imam Khomeyni has made it imperative upon the Revolution Council and other government officials to provide adequate budget and necessary resources for establishment of the organization and speedy implementation of its objectives. The letter, which has been addressed to Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Sheykh Mehdi Karrubi, says:

The noble Iranian nation knows that the Islamic movement and the victory of the Islamic Revolution is indebted to the sacrifices of various sections of this nation. In the first degree [as heard], martyrs of the revolution as well as those individuals who had given sacrifices in the prerevolution or postrevolution periods should be respected and paid homage in the best possible manners. It is therefore essential that an organization, to be supervised by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, and with the membership of trustworthy and religious individuals as well as those familiar with this important task, should set up to achieve its goals. By implementing plans useful to the nation and the revolutionary government they should pay back their debts to this group of individuals who have made sacrifices in the way of the Islamic Revolution. The Revolution Council is dutybound to allocate adequate funds to initiate this path and also to expedite implementation of its goals. The government and relevant officials must approve these articles and speedily implement them:

1. Cultural priorities. These individuals should enter schools and universities to benefit from necessary facilities;
2. Economic priorities. Housing accommodations, land and other essentials of life should be provided for them;
3. Recruitment priorities. Members of the families of martyrs and crippled should get priority in government employment; those who are capable of serving should be employed by the government;
4. Free cards should be issued to them for travelling in government buses inside cities;
5. (Pass) cards should be issued to them for travelling in intercity airplanes or trains, etc;
6. Special booklets should be issued to them for allowing them to make purchases from government cooperative stores; to benefit from health securities [as heard] and to make special purchases;
7. To allocate official salaries for those crippled and who are not in a position to work as well as for the family members of the martyrs in proportion to the number of the family;
8. To have special radio-television programs entitled: "Crippled and Families of the Martyrs."

This organization is dutybound to provide medical treatment without delay to those crippled and injured who need such treatment. In case it is essential for these patients to be sent abroad, their treatment arrangements for such travels should be made.

Furthermore, it is stressed that in case this organization in the cases mentioned earlier comes across any obstacles or if there is any negligence from side officials, then the matter should be referred to me, so that I could take necessary actions to resolve the same as required.

[Signed] Ruhollah Mosavi Khomeyni.

VIOLENCE, DISORDER REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Explosion in BAMDAD Building

NC141127 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 14 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 14 (AFP)--A bomb partially destroyed the offices of BAMDAD, considered Iran's most independent newspaper, early today. The bomb, planted at the entrance to the building, went off at about 0630 GMT local time (0300 GMT), hurling a watchman, the only person on the site, 20 metres (yards) into a courtyard and injuring him slightly. The interior of the building was heavily damaged. No one had claimed responsibility for the explosion by the end of the morning.

Last Monday a bomb exploded in a branch office of the paper at Esfahan, 420 kilometres (260 miles) south of Tehran. The action was claimed by a group called the "Fighters of the People."

On February 21 the Tehran offices were occupied by about 10 Muslim extremists of the "Partisans of God" organisation, who partially sacked the building before being expelled by Revolutionary Guards.

BAMDAD was forced to close for two weeks last month after the Islamic students occupying the United States Embassy here accused the paper of being pro-American.

Bani-Sadr on Bomb Explosion

LD142135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of our country, took part in an exclusive interview with PARS NEWS AGENCY tonight after inspecting polling stations. Answering a question on his opinion of the method and handling of the elections, he said: The elections were being conducted peacefully wherever I went today, and whether or not there has been exploitation should be investigated thoroughly.

Answering a question on the bomb explosion at the offices of BAMDAD newspaper, the president said: It is the existence of these self-fulfilling decisionmaking centers which causes these incidents. For example in Langarud yesterday, the governor detained two judges. I am going to this town in order to investigate the issue tomorrow. The prosecutor general asked me to issue orders to the effect that these two judges be brought to Tehran. I issued the order, but they were not brought to Tehran. The governor telephones at night asking persmission to keep them there for 1 or 2 more days, since it would damage his reputation if they were to be sent to Tehran immediately.

Is this good for the reputation of the country's judicial system? If the judge has committed an offense the governor does not have the authority to detain him, what is the judicial system of the country for, then?

Ambush of Khomeyni Supporters

LD161918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, which cited the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Qasr-e Shirin, an automobile carrying 12 Khomeyni supporters on their way from Gerdeh Kuh to (Ezgeleh) was blown up 1 kilometer from Pol-e Darizangeh by a bomb planted by counterrevolutionary elements. Two of the imam's supporters, (Aqa Morad) and (Hoseyn Moravvaki), were martyred and seven other people were wounded.

According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY report, two of the wounded, (Eliasi) and (Yari), were critically injured and were taken by helicopter to the Taleqani Hospital in Kermanshah this evening. It should be noted that these supporters of Imam Khomeyni are Kurdish, from western Iran.

Officials on Khuzestan Clash

LD161950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Following the confrontations yesterday and last night in Andimeshk which resulted in a number of injuries, the chief of police of this city took part in a telephone conversation with the PARS reporter in Ahvaz.

Regarding the gathering of unemployed people 20 days ago at the Education Department in Andimeshk, he said: Since according to the mutual agreement, their demands were not met within 10 days, 4000 unemployed people gathered yesterday in front of the railroad station in Andimeshk and prevented officials of the Lorestan region from leaving the premises. Following this gathering it was decided that the representative of [words indistinct] should have a session with the provincial officials.

Unfortunately, [words indistinct] the attack on the day market of Andimeshk and the plundering of the people's property, which resulted in the intervention of police and the arrest of ten attackers, this session was not held. The chief of police of Andimeshk added: Following this arrest the remaining demonstrators gathered outside the Revolution Guards Corps base and demanded the release of those arrested and negotiations were held in order to release them. At this time the demonstrators were confronted by another group and a severe clash began and the two groups started throwing stones at each other which resulted in injuries to 60 people.

In connection with the incidents in Andimeshk, Seyyed Mohammed Gharavi, the governor general of Khuzestan, talked to PARS and confirmed the report of the chief of police of Andimeshk. He said: The district officer of Andimeshk had succeeded in employing a number of unemployed highschool graduates and was planning to create more jobs for the others. Unfortunately, this confrontation occurred and we are still hopeful that, considering the special condition of Khuzestan, and the problem of unemployment in this province, this problem will eventually be solved.

INA on Khuzestan Clash

JN151917 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--The Arab citizens in the province of Arabistan [Khuzestan] have attacked the Ahvaz governor's office, the radio and television station and a number of Khomeyni followers' homes.

The news reports arriving here say that the armed attack, in which rockets, guns and hand-grenades were used, killed or wounded a number of Khomeyni guards and aides. The Arab citizens stressed in leaflets they distributed that they will not forget the innocent martyrs who were killed by Khomeyni's regime and agents.

The news reports also say that the Arab citizens in Arabistan also attacked the so-called revolution court and polling center in Abadan. The attack killed or wounded a number of government guards. The reports add that the Arab citizens blew up the main power generator in Ahvaz. The explosion destroyed the generator and cut off the electricity supply.

Warning to Gonbad-e Kavus Residents

LD151212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY dispatch, the public prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution in Gonbad-e Kavus has warned those people who have left their homes in Gonbad-e Kavus that should they not return to their homes within 24 hours from the issuance of this statement, he would confiscate their homes for the benefit of the meek. The statement called on other inhabitants of Gonbad-e Kavus not to apply to the responsible authorities in the city in order to obtain a permit to leave the city and to take away their household effects. The administrative and law enforcement authorities, too, were emphatically told to refrain from issuing permits from the exit of government employees and their household effects from Gonbad-e Kavus under any pretext whatsoever.

Occupation of College

LD141143 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 March reports in a 900-word report on page 1 on a student occupation of the chancellor's office at Tehran Teacher Training College. The action, staged by members of the university Islamic society, met with criticism from staff, who refused to attend classes and thereby virtually shut down the college. The students reportedly criticized "SAVAKists, liberals and conservatives" on the college council and singled out the chancellor for being "conservative" and "acting against council decisions."

EXECUTIONS OF OPPONENTS, SAVAKISTS REPORTED

Hushang Ashuri in Khomeyn

LD141208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, following the verdict of the Islamic revolution court in Khomeyn, Hushang Ashuri was executed in Khomeyn at 0200 this morning. The allegations against him were as follows: issuing the order to shoot innocent people on the 40th day of the death of the martyrs of Yazd which led to the murder of Seyyed Reza Tabataba'i and the wounding of a number of others; cooperating with the defunct SAVAK; creation of an atmosphere of fear; and arrest and torture of the strugglers which caused serious injury to some of them.

Hoseyni in Khuzestan

GF151610 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 15 Mar 80 GF

[Text] On 12 March 1980, the Islamic revolution court of Abadan and Khorramshahr investigated the charges against Mr Hoseyn 'Ashur Hoseyni.

The Revolution Court of Abadan and Khorramshahr found him guilty of murdering Jom'eh Isma'ili on 30 May 1979. He was also found guilty of disturbing the peace, using a firearm and taking armed action against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The evidence was based on eyewitness accounts and Revolution Guards reports. He was charged with being an opponent of God and a murderer and was sentenced to death. The sentence was carried out at 0600 on 14 March 1980.

SAVAK Official in Hamadan

LD160947 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Court of Hamadan reappraised the case of Mohammad Taqi Bozorgmanesh, an employee of the defunct SAVAK in Hamadan, yesterday afternoon and condemned him to death.

First, the charges were read by the court clerk. The charges against Mohammad Taqi Bozorgmanesh were as follows: participation in the arrest of members of the Abu Zar group in Nahavand in 1974-75, which led to the martyrdom of at least six members of the Abu Zar group; participation in the arrest of Khosrow (?Sargol), Hoseyn Falahi and Asqar Kohvand, murderers of the branch manager of the Saderat Bank; torture; being active in the so-called anti-terrorist joint committee in Tehran; participation in the 2500th year ceremonies of the previous regime.

The sentence was carried at 1230 last night.

Former Governor of Qom

LD161214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] The first military governor of Qom under the former regime has been sentenced to death by the appeal court. According to PARS NEWS AGENCY, Maj Gen Kamal Nezami, the first military governor under the former regime in Qom, was initially sentenced to a long prison term. However, upon insistance by himself and his family, his case was reviewed by the Qom Islamic Revolution Court. Meanwhile, new and fresh evidence was obtained in connection with his crimes. He ordered firing on innocent and Muslim inhabitants of Qom, with personnel under his command having killed and wounded more than 90 people.

The court of appeal in Qom sentenced him to death; the sentence was carried out at 1830 yesterday.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Shari'at-Madari Denial of Departure

LD152132 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The PARS NEWS AGENCY has reported that the office of Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'at-Madari has strongly denied a REUTER report that the ayatollah has left for Pakistan. It further announces that Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari is presently at his residence in the holy city of Qom.

REUTER had reported from Islamabad that the Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari has left Iran for Pakistan in order to attend an international Islamic conference. The report also said that the Iranian diplomats in Pakistan were also present at Islamabad Airport to welcome the ayatollah.

Qotbzadeh Message to Asian Conference

LD161802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Sadeq Qotbzadeh, minister of foreign affairs of our country, in a telegram addressed to the chairman of the Conference for Development Planning of Asian Countries being held in New Delhi, has expressed the hope that the conference will not submit to political and economic pressure exerted upon it by Western economic powers under any circumstances. The text of the telegram is as follows:

In His exalted name. The chairman of the Conference for Development Planning of Asian Countries in New Delhi: Considering the fact that at this conference it was decided that Asian countries would gather together and exchange views and make decisions on planning we have unfortunately been informed that delegations from America and European countries have participated in this conference and are responsible for the main part of the conference's work. Although we do not have any objection of bias against the use of different experts, we nevertheless believe that the Asian countries should hold the initiative in theseoperations in order to understand the realities and needs of their communities and exchange views and make decisions without any imposition.

We hope that this view will meet with the agreement of other Asian countries taking part in this conference and that they will not submit to any political or economic maneuvers by economic powers of the West under any circumstances.

[Signed] Sadeq Qotbzadeh, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Fighting in Afghanistan

LD150652 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to a report from informed sources, in a bloody clash in the southeast region of Afghanistan, in western province [as heard] 160 km from the Pakistan border, a great number of government forces and Afghan fighters were killed. Afghan Muslim fighters destroyed 15 tanks and one helicopter belonging to the government.

In a statement issued by the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan, it is said that in an attack by the Muslim fighters on Qarabagh base a group of Russian soldiers and several of the fighters were killed or injured. This statement also adds: The fighters have captured 50 Russian soldiers who were guarding a museum south of Jalalabad.

More on Afghanistan Fighting

JN160831 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Preliminary reports from Pakistan have mentioned that the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have killed more than 120 Soviet soldiers and 3 Afghan officials in attacks they launched in northern and eastern areas in Afghanistan.

Afghan Patriotic Front (Al-Jabhah al-Wataniyah al-Afghaniyah) sources mentioned that the revolutionaries launched an attack against a tank position 3 km north of Kabul last Thursday evening. The attack resulted in the death of 120 Soviet soldiers and the destruction of several tanks. The revolutionaries also said that they killed eight Soviet soldiers in battles that took place on the road leading to Qandahar. They added that 55 government soldiers have joined their ranks with their weapons.

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